

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An instrument for the unipolar ablation of heart tissue, comprising: with

an electrically conductive tube electrically insulated on its outer surface, with an electrical connector on ~~the~~ a proximal end of the tube which is electrically conductively connected to said tube, with a rinse connection on the proximal end of the tube which is in communication with a lumen of the tube and an electrode mounted into ~~the~~ a distal end of the tube which is connected electrically conductively to the tube and which features at least one discharge opening which is in communication with the lumen of the tube, wherein the tube is a ~~rigid~~ shaft tube ~~(20)~~ and that the electrode ~~(14)~~ is connected detachably with the distal end of the shaft tube ~~(20)~~; and

wherein the electrode is coaxially inserted into the distal end of the shaft tube axially contacting a stop establishing an electrical contact with the shaft tube and wherein that an electrically insulating electrode ferrule which surrounds the electrode is snapped onto the shaft tube and holds the electrode in a stop position on the shaft tube.

2. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the electrode ~~(14)~~ is connected to the shaft tube ~~(20)~~ by means of an axial plug-in detent.

3. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 7, wherein the electrode ~~(14)~~ is coaxially inserted into the distal end of the shaft tube ~~(20)~~ axially contacting a stop establishing the electrical contact with the shaft tube ~~(20)~~ and wherein that an electrically insulating electrode ferrule ~~(38)~~ which surrounds the electrode ~~(14)~~ is snapped onto the shaft tube ~~(20)~~ and holds the electrode ~~(14)~~ in the stop position on the shaft tube ~~(20)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the electrode ferrule (38) coaxially overlaps ~~[[the]]~~ an insulating cladding (22) of the shaft tube (20) in part and snaps on by means of a radial groove (26) and a corresponding detent (40).

5. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the electrode (14) inserted coaxially into the distal end of the shaft tube (20) contacts the distal end of the shaft tube (20) axially with its external collar (30).

6. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim 5, wherein the electrode ferrule (38) features an internal collar (42) which distally contacts the external collar (30) of the electrode (14) and which secures the electrode (14) axially contacting to the shaft tube (20).

7. (Currently Amended) An instrument ~~according to claim 1,~~ for the unipolar ablation of heart tissue, comprising:

an electrically conductive tube electrically insulated on its outer surface, with an electrical connector on a proximal end of the tube which is electrically conductively connected to said tube, with a rinse connection on the proximal end of the tube which is in communication with a lumen of the tube and an electrode mounted into a distal end of the tube which is connected electrically conductively to the tube and which features at least one discharge opening which is in communication with the lumen of the tube, wherein the tube is a rigid shaft tube and that the electrode is connected detachably with the distal end of the shaft tube ;

wherein the electrode (14) is constituted as a cylindrical part closing the lumen of the shaft tube (20) which features a proximal blind hole (32) which is open to the lumen of the shaft tube (20) in which at least one radial discharge opening (34) extends radially from ~~the~~ a circumflex of the electrode (14) into the blind hole (32); and

wherein an electrically insulating electrode ferrule which surrounds the electrode is snapped onto the shaft tube and holds the electrode in a stop position on the shaft tube , wherein between the outer surface of the electrode and a distal end of the electrode ferrule an
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annular gap remains open in a distal direction, and wherein at least one discharge opening meets with this annular gap.

8. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein an electrically insulating electrode ferrule (38) which surrounds the electrode (14) is snapped onto the shaft tube (20) and holds the electrode (14) in ~~the~~ a stop position on the shaft tube (20), wherein between the outer surface of the electrode (14) and ~~the~~ a distal end of the electrode ferrule (38) an annular gap (44) remains open in ~~the~~ a distal direction, and wherein at least one discharge opening (34) meets with this annular gap (44).

9. (Currently Amended) An instrument ~~according to claim 1, for the unipolar ablation of heart tissue, comprising:~~

an electrically conductive tube electrically insulated on its outer surface, with an electrical connector on a proximal end of the tube which is electrically conductively connected to said tube, with a rinse connection on the proximal end of the tube which is in communication with a lumen of the tube and an electrode mounted into a distal end of the tube which is connected electrically conductively to the tube and which features at least one discharge opening which is in communication with the lumen of the tube, wherein the tube is a rigid shaft tube and that the electrode is connected detachably with the distal end of the shaft tube; and

wherein an electrically insulating electrode ferrule (38) which surrounds the electrode (14) is snapped onto the shaft tube (20) and holds the electrode (14) in ~~the~~ a stop position on the shaft tube (20), and wherein the electrode ferrule features a radially enlarged flange (46) on its distal end which limits ~~the~~ an insertion depth of ~~the~~ a tip of the electrode (14) which protrudes from the flange (46) in ~~the~~ a distal direction.

10. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein a handle (12) made from plastic is located at the proximal end of the shaft tube (20).

11. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim 10, wherein the handle ~~(12)~~ is in ~~the~~ a form of a pen grip and is directly molded onto the shaft tube ~~(20)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim 10, wherein the handle ~~(12)~~ and ~~the~~ a cladding ~~(22)~~ of the shaft tube ~~(20)~~ consist of ~~the~~ a same material.

13. (Currently Amended) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the distal end of the shaft tube ~~(20)~~ with the electrode ~~(14)~~ is angled between approximately 30° and 45° with respect to ~~the~~ a centerline of the shaft tube ~~(20)~~.

14. (New) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein an electrically insulating electrode ferrule which surrounds the electrode is snapped onto the shaft tube and holds the electrode in a stop position on the shaft tube, and wherein the electrode ferrule features a radially enlarged flange on its distal end which limits an insertion depth of a tip of the electrode which protrudes from the flange in a distal direction.

15. (New) An instrument according to claim 7, wherein an electrically insulating electrode ferrule which surrounds the electrode is snapped onto the shaft tube and holds the electrode in a stop position on the shaft tube, and wherein the electrode ferrule features a radially enlarged flange on its distal end which limits a insertion depth of a tip of the electrode which protrudes from the flange in a distal direction.

16. (New) An instrument according to claim 9, wherein the electrode is coaxially inserted into the distal end of the shaft tube axially contacting a stop establishing an electrical contact with the shaft tube and wherein that an electrically insulating electrode ferrule which surrounds the electrode is snapped onto the shaft tube and holds the electrode in a stop position on the shaft tube.